

Meeting Date: March 8, 2007

Agenda Item No. 8

Agenda Item: Big Game: Outfitters and Guides Controlled
Hunt Tag Allocation (Action)

Approved by: _____

Prepared by: Brad Compton

Background:

Adoption of the Elk Management Plan in 1998 established tag caps to limit the number of hunters participating in general season elk zones. The outfitting industry supported the management plan, but recognized the potential economic impact of limited tags. In the late 1990s an Allocation Team, comprised of Department staff and outfitting industry representatives, was established to provide recommendations on allocation of tags for outfitted clients. Two central themes the Allocation Team promoted were: 1) changes in hunting opportunity should be proportionate among resident hunters, nonoutfitted nonresident hunters, and outfitted hunters; and 2) any outfitted client allocation should be conducted through a lottery process.

In January 2006 the Commission adopted changes to deer and elk tag allocation rules, in part to provide for greater flexibility and discretion in establishing allocations for controlled hunts. In February 2007 the House & Senate Rules subcommittees rejected a portion of the new Commission rules. Specifically, the subcommittees rejected IDAPA 13.01.04.505.02 [e](i) – “The number of allocated tags available within the controlled hunt area will be no more than six percent (6%); or.”

Statutory Authority and/or Policy Issues:

Idaho Code 36-408 (4) provides discretionary authority for the Commission to allocate tags/permits for outfitted clients where the Commission limits the total number of tags/permits available. IDAPA 13.01.04.505 provides Commission rules for allocating tags/permits to outfitted clients.

The Commission is responsible for establishing the total number of outfitted client allocated tags/permits. The Idaho Outfitter's & Guides Licensing Board is responsible for distribution of allocated tags/permits among outfitter areas.

Public Involvement Process:

Regional Department staff, Idaho Outfitters & Guides Licensing Board, Idaho Outfitters & Guides Association, and members of the House & Senate Rules subcommittees were consulted during development of the new proposed rule.

Staff Recommendation:

IDAPA 13.01.04.505.02

- e. The number of allocated tag/permits will be determined by using one (1) of the following options:
 - i. The number of allocated tags available within the controlled hunt area will be no less than one (1) tag and no more than three percent (3%);
or
 - ii. The number of tags available within the controlled hunt area will be based on the average historic use during the previous five (5) year period and calculated tag numbers will be rounded up when permits equal or exceed zero point six (0.6) and rounded down when permits are less than zero point six (0.6); or
 - iii. No tags will be allocated.

Justification: Commission action required to address House & Senate Rules subcommittee rejection of previous rule.